

Myerstown United Church of Christ

Third Sunday After the Epiphany

January 26, 2020

Worship Time 10:00 am

Traditional Service of the Word

Prelude *Blessed Jesus, At Your Word* Johann S Bach

Silent Preparation for Worship

As we remember our baptism into the life and death of Jesus, we acknowledge of our faith as a mystery: Christ came, to show us God's love; Christ was baptized, inviting us into the waters of life; Christ died, to fulfill all righteousness; Christ was raised, to set us free from death; Christ will come to take us by the hand and never let go. We will open our hearts and souls to the presence of God during out time together this day. Amen.

Welcome & Announcements

(will all who are able, please stand)

WE GATHER TO HEAR GOD'S WORD

*Remembering Our Baptism [Leader/All]

Baptized to begin lives of faith,
We would witness to all you do in our communities, in our midst, in our world.
Baptized to serve,
We would speak up for the voiceless, we would bring justice to those who have none.
Baptized to speak,
We would heal, and not hurt; we would bless, and not curse.
Baptized to do what is right,
We would not play favorites, but treat each as your Beloved.

*Invocation

Let us pray as one.
God of life and new life, you are splendid and strong! Your voice thunders above the sound of loud waters. You sit enthroned above the floods of life. As Jesus heard you speak to him in his baptism, may we also hear you calling us your beloved, through Jesus Christ, your son, our brother. Amen.

*Hymn #123

Fairest Lord Jesus
(the congregation may be seated)

CRUSADER'S HYMN

Confession of Sin

Call to Confession

Prayer of Confession

We try to stop Jesus from coming into our lives, Patient God, for we know how disruptive he can be. He wants us to preach the gospel with our lives, but we prefer to complain how hard that is to do. He wants us to do what is right, yet wrong-doing comes so easily for us. He would like us not to give up until justice is done, but we just don't seem to have the time.

We confess because we know we need to be forgiven by you, Glory and Grace. Bathe us in the life giving waters of your mercy so we can come up from the water, ready to do good for others, to give you all the praise, to learn justice, grace, and hope from your Servant, Jesus Christ. Amen.

Silent Confession

Assurance of Pardon

We are God's Beloved.
We delight God's heart.
Let us believe this good news.
The Spirit of God rests upon us, anointing us with mercy and peace. Thanks be to God! Amen.

Order for Affirmation of Ministry

Hymn #581

Called As Partners in Christ's Service
[verses 1 & 2]

BEECHER

[Church Council members are asked to come forward during the hymn.]

Greeting

Grace, mercy, and peace to you from Jesus Christ, the head of the church in heaven and on earth.

To God be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus to all generations, for ever and ever. Amen.

Introduction

Affirmation of ministry is the act whereby a local church of the United Church of Christ recognizes the diverse gifts of its members and celebrates the particular ministry of each person in the life of the church or in various settings in the life of the world. There are different kinds of spiritual gifts, but the same Spirit gives them.

There are different ways of serving, but the same God is served.

Presentation

Covenant

[will those who are able please stand]

*Congregation

Let us affirm our intention to live in covenant with them.

We gather in celebration of the joy that is ours to be partners with you in the service of Jesus Christ. We promise to love you, honor your leadership, and assist you that together we may be a faithful church of Jesus Christ.

[the congregation may be seated]

Laying on of Hands

Prayer of Installation

Let us pray as one.

Eternal God, you have called these people to serve you in this household of faith and in the world, which you have entrusted to our care and keeping. Send your Holy Spirit on them that they may serve among us with honor and faithfulness. Help them to be diligent in their duties that your church may prosper in the mission you place before it. May their example prove worthy for all of us to follow, as we are united in Christ's ministry, to the glory of your name. Amen.

Declaration

Hymn #581

Called As Partners in Christ's Service

BEECHER

[verses 3 & 4]

WE LISTEN TO GOD'S WORD

Prayer for Illumination

Scripture

A Reading from the Old Testament

Isaiah 42:1-9

Here is my servant, whom I uphold, my chosen, in whom my soul delights; I have put my spirit upon him; he will bring forth justice to the nations. He will not cry or lift up his voice, or make it heard in the street; a bruised reed he will not break, and a dimly burning wick he will not quench; he will faithfully bring forth justice. He will not grow faint or be crushed until he has established justice in the earth; and the coastlands wait for his teaching. Thus says God, the Lord, who created the heavens and stretched them out, who spread out the earth and what comes from it, who gives breath to the people upon it and spirit to those who walk in it: I am the Lord, I have called you in righteousness, I have taken you by the hand and kept you; I have given you as a covenant to the people, a light to the nations, to open the eyes that are blind, to bring out the prisoners from the dungeon, from the prison those who sit in darkness. I am the Lord, that is my name; my glory I give to no other, nor my praise to idols. See, the former things have come to pass, and new things I now declare; before they spring forth, I tell you of them.

[will those who are able please stand for the reading of the Gospel]

*A Reading from the Gospels

Matthew 3:13-17

Hear the good news of Jesus Christ as remember by John in verses 25 through 35 of chapter 6.

Praise be to you, O Christ.

Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan, to be baptized by him. John would have prevented him, saying, "I need to be baptized by you, and do you come to me?" But Jesus answered him, "Let it be so now; for it is proper for us in this way to fulfill all righteousness." Then he consented. And when Jesus had been baptized, just as he came up from the water, suddenly the heavens were opened to him and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and alighting on him. And a voice from heaven said, "This is my Son, the Beloved, with whom I am well pleased."

This is where the reading ends. It is the gospel of the Lord.

Thanks be to God!

[the congregation may be seated]

Homily

One Big Happy Family

WE RESPOND TO GOD'S WORD

Service of the Sacrament

Order for Baptism

Hymn # 241

When Jesus Came to Jordan

MUNICH

[verse 1 only]

[during the singing of the hymn those who desire baptism may come to the font]

Welcome

They were bringing children to Jesus that Jesus might touch them; and the disciples rebuked them. But when Jesus saw it, Jesus was indignant, and said to them

“Let the children come to me, do not hinder them; for to such belongs the realm of God.

Truly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the realm of God like a child shall not enter it.”

And Jesus took them in his arms and blessed them, laying his hands upon them.

Address

Jesus said: Unless we are born anew, we cannot see the reign of God; unless we are born of water and the Spirit, we cannot enter God's new order.

Paul, the apostle, said: All of us who have been baptized into Christ Jesus were baptized into Christ's death. We were buried therefore with Christ by baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead, to the glory of God, we, too, might walk in newness of life.

Baptism with water and the Holy Spirit is the mark of their acceptance into the care of Christ's church, the sign and seal of their participation in God's forgiveness, and the beginning of their growth into full Christian faith and discipleship.

This is the water of baptism. Out of this water we rise with new life, forgiven of sin and one in Christ members of Christ's body.

Questions of the Candidates

*Congregational Assent

[will those who are able please stand]

*Affirmation of Faith

Do you believe in God?

I believe in God.

Do you believe in Jesus Christ?

I believe in Jesus Christ.

Do you believe in the Holy Spirit?

I believe in the Holy Spirit.

[the congregation may be seated]

Prayer of Baptism

May God be with you.

And also with you.

Act of Baptism

Light of the World

Act of Praise

*Hymn #680

Borning Cry

WATERLIFE

[those who are able may stand]

*Prayer for the Baptized

Embrace us all as sons and daughters in the one household of your love. Grant us grace to receive, nurture, and befriend this new member of the body of Christ.

Give Jacob Samuel strength for life's journey, courage in time of suffering, the joy of faith, the freedom of love, and the hope of new life; through Jesus Christ, who makes us one. Amen.

*Praying As Our Savior Taught Us

Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our debts as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil, for thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.

[the congregation may be seated]

Offering

Invitation

Offertory *Lord, Jesus Christ, Be Present Now* Max Reger

*Response #177 *Jesus, Name Above All Names*

*Blessing

We leave the waters of baptism to offer grace to others; we give from our abundance to bless others with hope and healing; we offer our lives to you and others in serving with love and mercy. In Jesus' name, we pray you will bless these gifts and us. Amen.

WE TAKE GOD'S WORD INTO THE COMMUNITY

*Sending Forth

Baptized, let us go to live in faith.

We will bring healing to the broken and offer God's joy to those who grieve.

Baptized, let us go to serve.

At the side of Jesus, we will serve the hungry, we will give shelter to the homeless.

Baptized, let us go to be a voice.

We will echo the Spirit of calling for peace, we will never stop speaking against injustice.

Baptized, let us go to do what is right.

Finding you, God in Community, Holy in One, waiting for us to join you beside all your Beloved children.

*Benediction

*Recessional #243 *Songs of Thankfulness and Praise* ST. GEORGE'S WINDSOR

*Personal Meditation

*Postlude *St Anthony's Chorale* Franz Josef Haydn

Acknowledgements

The altar flowers are sponsored in loving memory of Doris E Schott & Stephen Schott, by Terry, Valerie, & Stacy.

The flowers last week were sponsored by Jean Gerheart in loving memory of Sara Harding, her daughter.

Some of the liturgy for this service has been reprinted from *Lectionary Liturgies: Day of Epiphany*. Thom Schuman. <https://lectionaryliturgies.blogspot.com/2020/01/liturgy-with-communion-for-january-12.html>; from Book of Worship © 1986 by permission of the United Church of Christ Office for Church Life and Leadership; and by permission of Westminster John Knox Press from *Feasting on the Word® Worship Companion*. Copyright 2013.

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Prayer List

|                    |               |                       |
|--------------------|---------------|-----------------------|
| Nancy Brown        | Rosene Duffy  | Suzanne Fritsch       |
| Steve Norford      | James Haines  | Linda Herr            |
| Ellen Goodyear     | Ruthann Snoke | Bill Gracely          |
| Ralph Woynarowski  | Jewel Fessler | Linda Feaser          |
| Rosalla Hollenbach | Joanne Frantz | Heather & Elvin Perez |
| Grace Brightbill   | Erin          | Sarah                 |

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Information Table Sign Up Board

There are multiple needs and opportunities waiting for you to accept. We are thankful for those who have offered their time, energy, and financial support.

BETTER FAMILIES: February, May, June, July, August, September, November, December. The cost is \$10; it can be added to "other" on the offering envelope. Please specify which month.

CONVERSATIONAL: February 2, 16, 23. Light refreshments are perfect!

FAITH FORMATION HELPERS: Youth and adults needed for the entire month of **February**. These people are needed from 8:45 am until 9:30 am.

NURSERY ATTENDANTS: Youth and adults needed for the entire month of **February**. These people are needed from 10 am to the end of worship.

ALTAR FLOWERS: Sponsors needed for February 2 and 23. Please contact Betty Arnold [717.866.5329] directly to sign up. There is no sheet on the Information Table.

Announcements

WELCOMING PASTOR PAUL-THANK YOU: Appreciation to everyone who responded so eagerly last week after both services.

WELCOMING PASTOR PAUL-PART A: In order to make it as comfortable as we can for Pastor Paul to get to know us, we are going to make a picture-directory

for him. Following both services this morning, we ask everyone to come to the Gathering Area and have your picture taken. Look for the *Photo Booth*.

WELCOMING PASTOR PAUL-PART B: So that Pastor Paul can connect with us better on a Sunday morning, we are revitalizing the around-the-neck name tags. This way he will be able to see our names and faces together. His first Sunday with us is February 8th.

BIRTHDAY RECOGNITION in the Vineyard is coming back by popular demand. While you are waiting to have your picture taken, please look at the "Birthday Clipboard." Only people who add the birthdate to this list will be included. We must have the month, day and year. While adding your birthday, please check and correct the other information; the line on the right is to correct addresses.

MEETINGS THIS WEEK: The Worship Support Team meets on Monday night at 6 pm; the Property Committee meets on Wednesday night at 6:30 pm. Both meetings are in the Library. Both groups have extremely important agenda items. If you are unable to attend contact the church office.

FOUR CHAPLAIN'S RUN and walk will be held this coming Saturday, February 1st. This is the seventh annual event and is held at Evangelical Seminary, 121 S College St, Myerstown. Registration for both the 4 mile and 1.5 mile run/walks can be made on the Internet at www.evangelical.edu or at 9:00 am on site. The event begins at 10:00. All proceeds support tuition for military chaplain students. Some of the people in the Chaplain's ministry program at the seminary are from the UCC.

ARE YOU WILLING TO HELP GROW OUR CHURCH? The Children and Youth Ministry Team is excited to announce growth and new opportunities to rebuild our ministries for young people. Curriculum has been ordered for a new class which will involve preschool students (ages 3, 4, and 5). We are looking for volunteers to help with this class beginning ASAP. Our youth are already volunteering to be teachers/helpers; it would be wonderful to have an adult to oversee these young people. You can sign-up for one week or as many as you like! Our Primary Class (K – 2nd grade) will continue to be taught by a rotation of Marcia Bicher with Jackie Shaak helping and Stephanie Bohannon with youth helpers. Our Middler Class (Grades 3 – 6) will continue to be taught by Ellen Goodyear. Confirmed youth have received an email asking for their help to make this a success. The goal is to create a new class for the youth beginning in Fall 2020. If you are willing to be part of this growing opportunity, please sign-up on the Information Counter or contact the church office or Emily Frantz for an email link.

HARTMAN CENTER LOVE OFFERING: On February 16th we will take a love offering in support of Hartman Center. There is some information posted on the

bulletin board next to the Information Table about the ministry. There are also some envelope labels for your convenience. You can also write Hartman Center on your regular church envelope to make a contribution.

NURSERY ATTENDANTS NEEDED: The nursery will be reopening January 26, 2020. Following the children's sermon, the nursery attendants will take the children downstairs to have supervised play time for the remainder of worship. Our youth are already signing up to be helpers for this ministry! If you are willing to assist, please sign-up on the Information Counter or contact the church office or Emily Frantz for an email link.

Liver Transplant Needed for Kiersten Sweigart

Kiersten is a beautiful, intelligent, sweet, 21 year-old who is currently a Junior in Nursing School and is excited to become a Registered Nurse. Up until 7 years ago, Kiersten was a healthy young girl; however, in the summer of 2013 that all changed. Kiersten was having several bouts of severe abdominal pain, so was taken to her family doctor for evaluation. Tests would soon reveal that Kiersten had Crohn's disease, but even worse, the auto-immune disease had attacked her liver leading to Primary Sclerosing Cholangitis (PSC). PSC is a progressive disease of the liver and gallbladder characterized by inflammation and scarring of the bile ducts. This can eventually lead to cirrhosis and liver failure. In time, medical treatment for PSC starts to fail and a liver transplant is needed. Kiersten is at that point and is in need of a liver transplant. Fortunately, Kiersten does not have to wait until she is gravely ill to have a liver transplant done, if someone is willing to donate part of their liver to her. Live donor transplant is a life-saving procedure where a donor gives a lobe of his/her liver to a recipient. The liver is the only organ that rejuvenates itself. If someone donates a portion of their liver, it will return back to full-size in 2 months. We are looking for healthy individuals that have O+ or O- blood to possibly be her life saving donor. Kiersten's parents and sibling are not a match. Might you be the one? If you find it in your heart to be tested as a possible donor for this sweet girl PLEASE contact:

Amy Wildasin, BSN, RN Living Donor Coordinator, Department of Transplant Surgery
717-531-6092; 800-525-5395 awildasin@pennstatehealth.psu.edu

CHURCH STAFF EMAIL: The church staff with the exception of the custodian have church email addresses. It is preferred that you begin using them rather than their personal email addresses.

Pastor	muccpastor@comcast.net
Parish Administrator	muccparishadmin@comcast.net
Church Office / Secretary	myerstownucc@comcast.net
Financial Administrator	muccfinance@comcast.net
Organist/Worship Music Coordinator	muccmusic@comcast.net

Worship Assistants for February 2, 2020

8:00 am Service **Open Church:** Cal Beamesderfer
Greeter: Sue Harvey **Worship Leader:** Wanda Rabold
Communion Servers: Jackie Shaak, Sue Harvey
 10:00 am Service **Sound:** Paulie McQuate
Greeters: Jim & Beth Diehm **Worship Leader:** Margo McQuate
Ushers: Travis, Angie, Gabby, & Gavin Bicher, Kenny Patrick
Communion Servers: Ed & Candy Hibshman, Steve & Marianne Fritsch
Counting Team: Ted & Carol Batdorff, Darryl Brown

Calendar for This Week

Today, Sunday, January 26
 8:00 am Brief Worship
 8:45 am Small group meetings.
 8:45 am Prayer Team [Prayer Room]
 10:00 am Worship with the Sacrament of Baptism
 Installation of Church Council during worship

Monday, January 27
 8:30 am Strong Bones [Social Hall]
 9:00 am - 2:00 pm Church Office Open
 6:00 pm Worship Support Team [Library]

Tuesday, January 28
 10:30 am Lebanon Assoc Ministerium, Salem, Campbelltown
No Pastoral Office Hours

Wednesday, January 29
 9:00 am - 2:00 pm Church Office Open
 6:30 pm Property Committee [Library]
 6:30 pm Scouts [Social Hall]

Thursday, January 30
 8:30 am Strong Bones [Social Hall]

Friday, January 31
 9:00 am - 2:00 pm Church Office Open

Saturday, February 1

Sunday, February 2
 8:00 am Brief Worship with the
 Sacrament of Holy Communion
 8:45 am Faith Formation Groups
 8:45 am Prayer Team [Prayer Room]
 10:00 am Worship with the Sacrament of Holy Communion

Welcome to Myerstown United Church of Christ

Church Office: 304 West Main Avenue, Myerstown , PA 17067-1023
 Phone: 717/866-5252 myerstownucc@comcast.net
 website: myerstownuccchurch.org

Kory Leppo ----- 717-269-6033 ----- Council President
 Marie Hibshman 717-343-3247 ----- Elder
 Jim Yoder----- 252-258-4268 ----- Bridge Pastor
 Emily Frantz----- 717-383-1147 ----- Parish Administrator
 Mark Herr----- 717-572-7734 ----- Organist / Worship Music Coordinator
 Lindy Bennetch----- Financial Administrator
 Jim Yoder----- Church Secretary
 Elicia Frank----- Custodian

Worship Assistants

Appreciation to the following who participated in today's service:

Organist Mark Herr

8:00 am Service

Open Church: Fritz Firestine
Greeter: Nancy Weaber **Worship Leader:** Sally Kulp

10:00 am Service

Greeters: Terry & Suzie Schott **Sound:** Bob Dash
Liturgist Kristi Fields, **Lector:** Darryl Brown
Ushers Ed & Candy Hibshman, Terry & Suzie Schott, Kenny Patrick
Counting Team Ed & Candy Hibshman, Terry & Suzie Schott

Stewardship Report for Sunday, January 19, 2020

General Fund	\$2,596	OCWM	\$100
Church Improvement Fund			\$95
Attendance 8 am:	12	Attendance 10 am:	38